



# The Evaluation



future test mental

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## Chapter 1 by Phantim

Daisy sat nervously in her chair, waiting for her name to be called. Today is her graduation ceremony. It's more than that, though, because you don't just graduate. There is a final test; A final /public/ test. That was what had Daisy twitching nervously in her seat. She didn't do well in front of large crowds.

There was no guarantee of success either. A few students had already failed, their minds hadn't been strong enough.

Looking back up at the large screens on the stage Daisy watched as one of her classmates was running through a jungle, chased by an impossible monster with huge fangs. Then daisy looked down to the girl who's mind she had just been viewing and watched as she sat perfectly still in a large metal chair on the same stage, many wires and diodes attached to her head. The test was different for everyone. Still it was public, and everyone was going to get to look into your mind. /Into my mind/, she thought.

On the screen, suddenly, the girl made a huge jump across a canyon, safely escaping the beast. A siren buzzed letting everyone know that the girl had passed the test. A few men on stage began undoing the wires.

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## Chapter 2 by Phantim



As daisy reach the stage and sat down in the now empty metal chair on the stage, her principal at the academy came up to her and began to speak in a hushed voice.

"As you know, this is your final test at the academy and how you preform will effect where you are placed for your internship. Failure to complete the test at all have you either kicked from the academy, or forced to repeat another year. Is that understood?" the principal asked.

"Y-Yes ma'am," Daisy replied.

"Very good," she replied.

"She is ready, hook her up!" the principal then said to several of the men on stage.

It wasn't long before they were busy plugging he into all sorts of machines and taping the diodes along her head and neck. Then the placed a mask over her face which was releasing a sleeping gas.

"Count backwards with me Daisy," one of the men said.

"10, 9, 8, 7...." but then daisy was already passed out into darkness.

Then, the dream began.

## Chapter 3 by NumericalPants



"Where am I," Daisy screamed, "What is this place?!"

Daisy was standing in a field of barley, and the sky was concrete grey.

"Where's the test!?"

"What and completing?"

Outside of Daisy's mind, something was happening. See more of Story Wars

She was frothing at the m

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"Oh God," her best friend Krista screamed, "Someone, please, help her!"

The men standing by rushed in to help Daisy, but with a single word from the principal, they stood aside.

"No. Let her be. She's one of my most interesting students, and this may let us finally look into the raw psyche of a genius like Daisy."

#### Chapter 4 by Caroline Merkel



The concrete sky seemed unreal, and Daisy squinted at it. It wasn't until too late that she realized she'd never learned what the test actually was. She'd just assumed that you would know once you got there.

A distant clap of thunder startled Daisy back to where she was, staring at the dull grey ceiling, the wall of her final evaluation, separating her from her past and her future. The thunder bellowed again, closer this time, and Daisy began to scan her surroundings, looking for something that might give her a clue as to what the hell she was actually supposed to do in here.

Back in reality, Daisy continued to writhe on the ground, accompanied by Krista's gasping sobs. Her head snapped back and forth, as guttural noises escaped her throat. The principal crouched next to her, casting a wary eye toward Krista as he reached out to touch Daisy's quivering arm. An odd smile worked its way onto his face as his hand approached her arm.

"You're sick," Krista gasped, throwing all the menace she could muster up into her voice. "One of your students is collapsed on the stage, there are little children in the audience, and all you can do is smile and think. It's a miracle you've made it this far in the world without someone committing you to an institution." The principal's eerie smile doesn't exit his face, and a minor ripple of fear begins to make its way through the previously expressionless audience. In an authoritative gesture, the principal lays his hand on Daisy's arm. Suddenly, she went horribly, totally, slack.

She was paralyzed. It didn't take Daisy long to realize this, once she'd fallen into the tall grass. Of

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## Chapter 5 by Joanna Marie



*Maybe this is the test?* Daisy thought, mind buzzing with panic and caffeine from this morning's espresso.

She couldn't move. Anything.

She tried wriggling her toes or blinking but all she could do was lay and helplessly get pulled away.

Daisy kept telling herself it wasn't real, it wasn't real. But it seemed as if it was. Her mind was making up the story, and she could try to change it all she wanted but she didn't think it would work.

*But it's my mind. All I have to do is...*

### Snap!

In a flash of shock and dread, Daisy twitched awake, finding herself in a fluorescent liquid, shielded by a glass visor covering her eyes, but still, it partly obscured her vision. After the disorientation dropped to a bearable level, Daisy heard their voices – distorted by fluid and warped with fear.

Out of sight, one shouts, "She isn't supposed to be awake . . . not yet. How? How did this happen? Does the doctor know about this? Someone call him! And the principle, he'll be shocked to hear!"

Trying all that Daisy could just got her nowhere, though the movement led to the painful discovery of several tubes, coursing with a cerulean substance, all inserted beneath her skin. At first, the feeling was more distant, yet as soon as she made another slight motion, she could feel the piercing objects sharply scraping against bone. Fighting against the urge to scream lasted long enough to provide Daisy with the next horror. Moving across her body was a silver-hued material, enveloping the rest of her arms like a parasite, which soon took a solid form that melded with her flesh. Panic seeped through, and before long, the struggle started- with an attempt to break away from it all and to shatter the glass prison. Every action was slow, sluggish and futile, as the tethers kept her almost locked in place using an amalgamation of agony and restraint.

Someone shouted "Now!" and everything was black again.

Back to her mind. Back to the other terror. Back to the fear.

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Chapter 6 by NumericalP

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Her mind looked altogether different yet the same. The walls now had cracks, and the fields were burning in the distance.

Daisy looked around her new broken mindscape for a breath of normality, and was shocked by the human silhouette approaching from the horizon. Daisy blinked to see if it was a trick, but when she opened her eyes, it was closer. She blinked again, for affirmation that what she saw had happened. She opened her eyes to find Krista standing in front of her.

"Hello, Daisy," Krista said. "This must be a shock for you, but I assure you, you'll be alright."

"Who the hell are you?!" Daisy screamed. She began to run away, but when she turned around, she discovered there was a wall of fire preventing her from escaping.

"Daisy, stay calm. You've been selected for a very important... project."

"Where was my consent in all of this?"

"No need to be sarcastic, Daisy, as you'll soon be the first one of us that can have an impact on the enemy's numbers."

## Chapter 7 by Phantim



Our enemies... Daisy thought. The Vesp. No one really thought about them much anymore. Not here, not on Mars. There had been a war... an Alien invasion of Earth. The humans lost and were forced to flee in spacecraft - sure the alien fleet would chase and hunt them down. That never happened and 30 years later the colonization of Mars had been the only life most knew. Earth was all but forgotten. Wasn't it?

"The Vesp? What on Earth do I have to do with them?" Daisy cried out.

"What on Earth indeed..." Krista said. "It's a shame you didn't recognize me. This visage was supposed to be calming for you, but the mental damage must have been too severe." Suddenly Krista's form shimmered and was gone, in its place stood the principal.

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